United Nations A/70/748

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 79 (a)
Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 19 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a diplomatic note dated 19 February 2016 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam addressed to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Hanoi concerning China's construction of a helicopter base on Quang Hoa (Duncan) Island and deployment of surface-to-air missile batteries on Phu Lam (Woody) Island of Hoang Sa (Paracel) Archipelago of Viet Nam (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 79 (a).

(*Signed*) Nguyen Phuong Nga
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations

16-02738 (E) 240216

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 19 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Hanoi, and, with reference to China's construction of a helicopter base on Quang Hoa (Duncan) Island and the deployment of surface-to-air missile batteries on Phu Lam (Woody) Island of Hoang Sa (Paracel) Archipelago of Viet Nam, has the honour to state the position of Viet Nam.

Viet Nam, once again, reaffirms its indisputable sovereignty over Hoang Sa Archipelago and Truong Sa (Spratly) Archipelago.

Viet Nam is gravely concerned about the above-mentioned actions of China that blatantly infringe upon the sovereignty of Viet Nam over Hoang Sa Archipelago, threaten peace and stability in the region and directly endanger the security, safety and freedom of navigation and overflight in the East Sea (South China Sea). China's actions also flagrantly violate the Agreement on the Basic Principles guiding the Settlement of Sea Issues between China and Viet Nam and defy the cardinal principles of international law, especially the principle of refraining from the threat or use of force in international relations. Viet Nam demands that China immediately put an end to the construction of the helicopter base and landing fields on Quang Hoa Island and withdraw all surface-to-air missile batteries and other relevant facilities installed on Phu Lam Island of Viet Nam's Hoang Sa Archipelago.

Treasuring the neighbourly relations and friendly cooperation between the two countries, Viet Nam requests China to settle the disputes relating to Hoang Sa Archipelago, Truong Sa Archipelago and other disputes and differences in the East Sea through negotiation, consultation and other peaceful means as permitted under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Hanoi the assurance of its highest consideration.

Hanoi, 19 February 2016